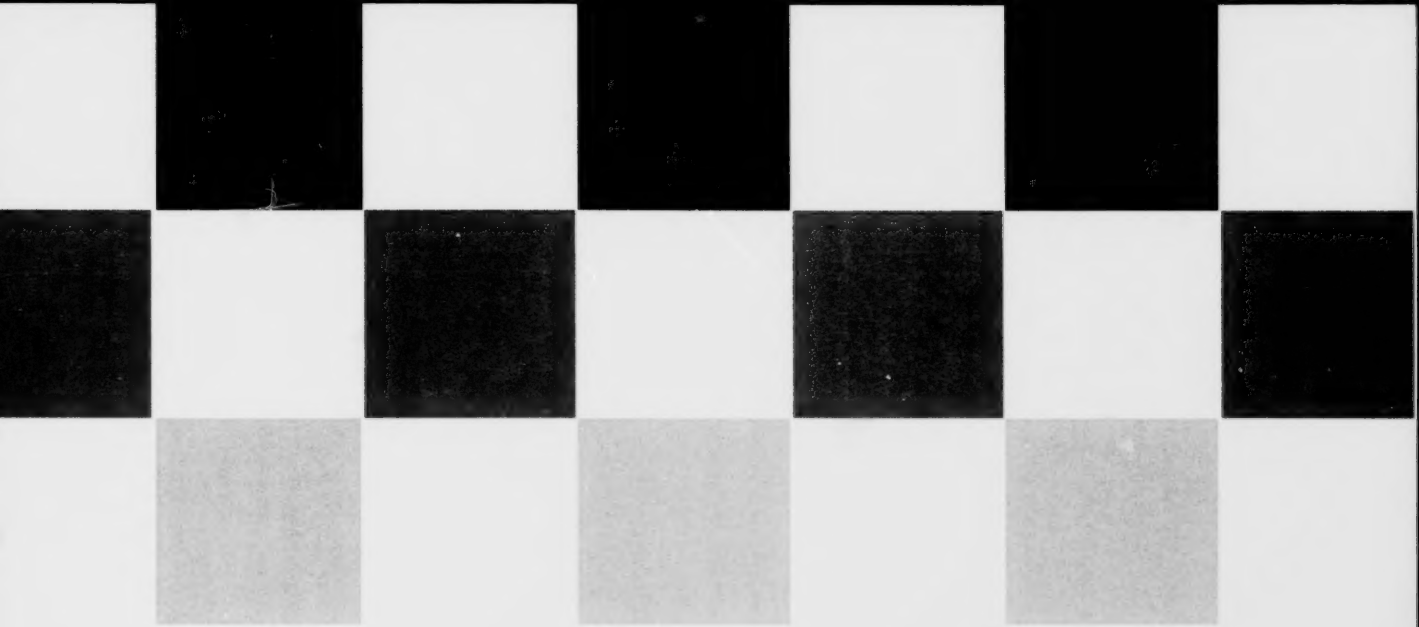


Legal Aid Manitoba
L'Aide Juridique du Manitoba
THIRTY SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
March 31, 2008

QUICK FACTS

OVERVIEW - LEGAL AID MANITOBA

- Legal Aid Manitoba provides legal help to people with low-incomes. Legal Aid is fundamental to a fair and balanced justice system.
- Legal Aid Manitoba opened its doors to clients in 1972. About half our cases are handled by staff lawyers; the other half are handled by private lawyers who are paid a fee for each case.
- Legal Aid Manitoba provided assistance on a formal or informal basis to 80,919 people in 2007-2008.
- Legal Aid Manitoba assists low-income citizens who qualify:
 - * in **domestic** matters such as divorce or child custody
 - * adults or youth facing serious **criminal** charges
 - * in disputes involving **poverty law** such as workers compensation or disability pensions or welfare
 - * in cases of **public interest** such as environmental, consumer or Charter of Rights challenges
- Legal Aid Manitoba has offices in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, Dauphin and The Pas. Staff travel to more than 40 rural and northern communities on a regular basis. Approximately 170 people are employed by Legal Aid Manitoba across the province.
- The *Legal Aid Manitoba Act* is provincial legislation which established Legal Aid Manitoba as an independent organization operating at arms length from government. A Management Council of seven to nine people appointed by Cabinet offers strategic and financial direction.
- Legal Aid Manitoba is funded by the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Law Foundation and fees paid by clients.



**Legal Aid Manitoba
L'Aide Juridique du Manitoba
Annual Report
2008**

**THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
LEGAL AID MANITOBA
Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2008**

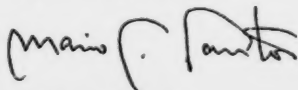
The Honourable Dave Chomiak
Minister of Justice
Attorney General
Room 104 – Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to Section 28 of the *Legal Aid Manitoba Act*, I am pleased to submit the Thirty-Sixth Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 2008.

Detailed statistical information relating to clients, cases and costs is included. The report of the Auditor General and financial statements are attached. Also included is the Audited Statement of Compensation Paid to Council Members and Employees and the Statement of Private Bar Fees and Disbursements in excess of \$50,000 in accordance with Section 2 and 4 of *The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act*.

Respectfully submitted,



MARIO SANTOS

Chair
Legal Aid Management Council

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MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR

Management Council and Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM) oversee the delivery of legal aid services to individuals, ensuring access to justice for eligible clients who cannot afford a lawyer. LAM assists the province with its obligations of ensuring legal representation for low-income people. Our service also assists in providing a fair and balanced justice system and we play an important role in shaping a just and humane community. Our vision is to provide legal services to low-income citizens in need with respect and compassion.

This annual report reflects most of LAM's achievements toward fulfilling its mandate and vision during the past fiscal year. We are very proud that we have been able to help over 80,000 low-income people in 2007/08. We are also quite committed to finding new ways to broaden and extend our reach as well as adapting new and existing services to better meet the changing needs of our clientèle.

The 2007/08 year was marked with significant progress as we strive to provide sufficient support and adequate processes to ensure the organization is capable of meeting the growing demands and pressures for legal aid services in Manitoba. Notable activities and enhancements undertaken in the past fiscal year include:

- Management Council & LAM continued with the completion and implementation of our strategic planning process. During the year, Management Council approved the organization's five year strategic plan and annual business plan. Management Council would like to specifically acknowledge our staff's insightful input into the process. Their commitment to our strategic planning exercise has proved extremely beneficial to renewing, re-branding and revitalizing the organization.
- LAM, Management Council, the Advisory Committee and private bar stakeholders actively worked to review and address perceived inadequacies with the

private bar's tariff of fees. The tariff system plays a vital role in the larger justice system where it supports the fundamental goal of access to justice. However, over several years, inadequate funding commitments by successive governments have created problems with the delivery of legal services through private bar lawyers. In an attempt to redress this problem, Management Council submitted a proposal to the provincial government seeking changes to LAM's tariff. We hope that the provincial government will recognize that changes to the tariff are necessary given the increasing difficulties in attracting private bar lawyers to represent our clients.

- Management Council and Executive Management have been actively trying to resolve the chronic problem of delivering legal services in the North. It is becoming extremely difficult to fulfil our mandate in northern Manitoba due to the lack of staff and private bar lawyers. Since 2001/2002, there has been a 65% decrease in the number of private bar lawyers, especially in the family law area, willing to accept legal aid work. The exodus of private bar and staff lawyers has made it very difficult for LAM to meet existing client demands. This has been shown to be a systemic problem within Manitoba's justice system. LAM has been actively working with the provincial government and other stakeholders to address the shortage of lawyers in the North.
- Another major concern of Management Council was our ability to undertake financial reviews to ensure that only eligible Manitobans receive legal assistance. LAM was able to dedicate a staff person to undertake these reviews. We are confident that LAM will continue in its ability to justify the expenditure of public funds as per the requirements of the Act.
- The Appeal Committee was established by legislation. Decisions concerning appeals by



applicants or by lawyers are now made by the Appeal Committee and not by Management Council. An issue addressed by the Appeal Committee was the lack of reasons provided for committee decisions where applicants appealed legal aid refusals. Management Council decided that the Appeal Committee will provide brief reasons for its decisions to the applicants and legal aid staff. The change was implemented as a means to better outline the reasoning behind Appeal Committee decisions and improve the process' efficiency.

- Management Council also developed and implemented committee structures to help facilitate its work. In 2007/08, three committees were established: the Governance, Finance, and Policy/ Services Committees. It is our view that these committees will serve LAM and work cooperatively with administration and other key stakeholders to improve Management Council's effectiveness and efficiency in discharging its duties.

A number of priorities have already been set for the coming fiscal year by Management Council to continue improving and strengthening LAM. Notably:

- As part of the strategic planning process, LAM is considering a series of surveys of clients, staff employees and private bar lawyers. This feedback will assist Management Council to evaluate our strategic planning process and provide insight into how our service delivery could be done more efficiently.
- LAM has received increases in funding from the provincial government over the last 13 years, but these have been tied to increases in the tariff, in staff salaries, and in income eligibility guidelines. Funding for internal operations at LAM has not kept pace with inflationary pressures, so the Management Council intends to review this issue with the provincial government in the next fiscal year.

- Management Council will be reviewing LAM's financial eligibility guidelines. As currently structured, LAM is being constrained in its provision of legal representation to low-income Manitobans by outdated financial eligibility guidelines. Management Council will be working with staff to develop and submit a proposal to the provincial government seeking changes to our financial eligibility guidelines.
- LAM and Management Council will be reviewing the Area Directors' manual which provides direction and guidance to staff assessing client eligibility for legal aid services. The review is significant and we hope that the project will be completed in the next fiscal year.

I would like to recognize the ongoing contribution and dedication of Management Council's membership. Notably, after several years of dedicated service to Legal Aid, Marlene Campbell retired from Management Council. We thank Mrs. Campbell for her work on behalf of Legal Aid Manitoba. In her place, Management Council welcomes two new members to Council, Rose Buss and Kim Milne. Management Council and Legal Aid Manitoba would also like to thank the Government of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Law Foundation, and private bar lawyers for their ongoing commitment and support of legal aid. We would also like to thank our clients who financially contribute to our operations.

Only through the dedication and commitment of our staff, the private bar and volunteers is it possible for LAM to fulfil its mandate. Management Council is looking forward to continue working with staff, the Advisory Committee, the private bar and other key stakeholders to actively promote and develop innovative service delivery strategies and processes within the organization so that we may continue to provide equal, affordable access to justice for low-income Manitobans.

Mario J. Santos
Council Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the past nine years as Executive Director, I have had the distinct privilege and opportunity to lead Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM) through a period of growth and renewal. My nine years at LAM have been extremely exciting and presented a huge learning curve. I came here quite a novice in regard to legal aid, its purpose as well as its internal mechanisms and functions. I have grown in my knowledge of legal aid and the type of work that we do and the services we provide and most importantly, I learned to focus on the people to whom we provide legal services on a daily basis.

Much of my success as LAM's leader can be directly attributed to dedicated staff, its previous Board of Directors, the current Management Council and private bar stakeholders who diligently and tirelessly worked to ensure accessible legal coverage for Manitobans. The fact that I was able to understand what Legal Aid's "magic" is all about, that I was able to get a good handle on its issues and challenges and help successfully move the organization forward in my nine years as Executive Director, can be directly attributed to these individuals and their continued commitment and dedication to LAM and to the people it serves in the Province of Manitoba.

It is because of this commitment and dedication that LAM was able to successfully undertake numerous initiatives to improve the services provided to the court system and low-income Manitobans. To illustrate just how committed and dedicated staff and the private bar are, I will highlight some of the many initiatives which were undertaken during my tenure with their assistance and cooperation. These initiatives demonstrate their commitment to making LAM better for low-income people in need throughout Manitoba. Notably:

- We created a model for LAM which laid out our vision that specifically indicated that we serve low-income citizens who need help and strive to do so with respect and compassion. Our service is fundamental to a fair and balanced justice system and we play

an important role in shaping a just and humane community.

- With significant involvement and input from stakeholders, staff developed LAM's strategic plan and business plan.
- We improved working relationships and linkages with the Justice department, the Courts, the judiciary, Prosecutions, and other players in the Justice system.
- We created LAMAS, our new computer application system with staff input, feedback, and full cooperation.
- We were successful in reducing or removing the holdback on private bar fees that was imposed in the 90's.
- In 2003, we established a Tariff Review Committee comprised of administrative staff as well as members of the criminal and family bars. Within this committee, we have been diligently working to improve the tariff to attract lawyers back to taking legal aid.
- Under the Federal Investment Fund initiative in 2003, we were able to establish a total of 18 projects, some of which are still ongoing.
- With special funding from the Federal Government again, we were able to create, the first in Canada, and probably the first in North America, child protection duty counsel process and, in 2004, create a collaborative law pilot project. Both projects were extremely successful and are still in place today.



- In 2003, we initiated a Big Case Management process.
- In 2003, we initiated and established a taxation discretionary increase committee to ensure that there is accountability and consistency in the process and that objectivity and fairness is met in the assessment of additional fees.
- We established conflict offices in late 2005 along with conflict policies and procedures.
- With the Management Council, we re-developed LAM's governance structure, created by-laws, and established an Advisory Committee.

LAM is an extraordinary organization with an exciting future. I am humbled and privileged to have been part of this vibrant organization with its tremendously dedicated staff and stakeholders who passionately espouse to Legal Aid Manitoba's vision to equality and access to justice for all low-income Manitobans. While LAM is an extraordinary organization poised to continue pro-actively addressing many challenges and opportunities to improve itself and its service delivery, after a great deal of serious thought and deliberation, I have decided to retire as LAM's Executive Director in the summer of 2008. In the interim, the Deputy-Executive Director, Gil Clifford will become Acting Executive Director until a suitable replacement is found for my position. I am confident that Gil and the rest of the Executive Management team will continue to provide exceptional leadership in the interim to ensure the ongoing provision of innovative and cost effective legal services for low-income Manitobans.

The preliminary stages to hire a new Executive Director have already begun and I am hopeful that LAM will be able to recruit a capable and proven leader to guide the organization through the 21st century.

As I leave to undertake new challenges, LAM will forever be in my mind and in my heart. When reflecting over my long career, I will fondly remember the staff that I have interacted with and all the things we have accomplished at LAM during my tenure. From the bottom of my heart, I want to sincerely thank the staff, Board and Council members and the private bar for their acceptance, support, and cooperation while leading Legal Aid Manitoba.

Gerry McNeilly
Executive Director

"I am confident that Gil and the rest of the Executive Management team will continue to provide exceptional leadership...to ensure the ongoing provision of innovative and cost effective legal services for low-income Manitobans"

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Mario Santos, B.A., LL.B.

Barrister & Solicitor
Chair

Chris Martin

Barrister & Solicitor

Wendy Whitecloud

Director, Academic Support Program
Faculty of Law, University of Manitoba
Vice-Chair

Marietta Pellettieri

Barrister & Solicitor
Myers Weinberg LLP

Tony Gauthier, CA

Partner
Craig & Ross Chartered Accountants
Chair, Finance Committee

Herbert Peters

Partner
Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP

Luis Martinez, R.T.

Kim Milne

Comptroller

Rose Buss

Marlene Campbell

Teacher
Retired December 2007



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Marietta Pellettieri, Luis Martinez, Tony Gauthier, Wendy Whitecloud, Mario Santos, Rose Buss, Herbert Peters, Kim Milne, Chris Martin

SENIOR ADMINISTRATORS

Gerry McNeilly

Executive Director

Gil Clifford

Deputy Executive Director

Bill Malcolm

(Retired - December 2007)

Director of Policy/Planning

Robin Dwarka

Director of Administration

AREA DIRECTORS

Bill Merrett

Winnipeg

Cathy Sherman

(Deputy Area Director)

Winnipeg

Lorne Giesbrecht

Brandon

Theresa McDonald

The Pas - Thompson

Therese Koturbash

Dauphin

MANAGEMENT COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Activity Report

Management Council maintains several standing and ad hoc committees. These committees assist Management Council in discharging its legislated mandate. The use of committees also helps individual council members gain a more comprehensive understanding of matters requiring specialized decision making or approval by Council. The following report outlines the activities of Management Council's various committees during the 2007/08 fiscal year:

1. **Finance Committee** – The Finance Committee's mandate is to oversee the financial management of Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM). The committee reviews issues and makes recommendations to Management Council pertaining to LAM's finances, investments, funding and fiscal allocations. The Finance Committee's membership currently includes four councillors.

During 2007/08, the Finance Committee met three times. The committee oversaw the annual budget estimates process as well as the Office of the Auditor General's audit of LAM's finances, started the development of an internal control procedures binder and reviewed LAM's current cheque signing officers limits. For the upcoming fiscal year, the Finance Committee will continue to oversee the budget and audit processes and complete work on the internal control procedures binder.

2. **Governance Committee** – The Governance Committee's mandate is to oversee Management Council's nominating and governance activities. Through its activities, the committee reviews developments and emerging best practices in corporate governance with the view of forwarding recommendations to Management Council that will help improve its effectiveness. Four councillors currently make up the Governance Committee's membership.

During the 2007/08 fiscal year, the Governance Committee met seven times. The committee worked primarily on developing LAM's governance manual. This document outlines LAM's revised governance structure resulting from the legislative changes made to the LAM Act in 2005. A few substantive changes that were made to LAM's governance scheme include:

- Management Council is responsible for LAM's strategic direction. The Executive Director is charged with the strategic development function in collaboration with Council.
- Management Council's role in making "policy" is consistent with standard roles for all councils and boards. Briefly, Council is responsible for the development of:
 - Ends Policies – Outlining LAM's responsibilities in the delivery of legal aid services to Manitobans.
 - Executive Limitations Policies – Outlining the limits of the Executive Director's role and authority.
 - Governance Process Policies – Outlining LAM's governance scheme.
 - Council-Staff Linkage Policies – Outlining the inter-relationship of Council and management (including all staff).
- Management Council now speaks for LAM with external stakeholders (including media) regarding all matters pertaining to LAM except for operational issues. Inquiries about operational issues (i.e. failure to appoint counsel, application process, etc.) are the domain of the Executive Director.
- Management Council can delegate and/or establish standing or ad hoc committees to discharge its duties and responsibilities.

For the upcoming fiscal year, the Governance Committee will continue to further develop specific guidelines and principles within the governance manual. Longer term goals have also been established which include developing performance measurement standards, as well as an orientation package and continuing education standards for councillors.

3. **Policy/Services Committee** – In the last quarter of 2007/08, Management Council approved the creation of the Policy/Services Committee. The Policy/Services Committee will be comprised of four members of Council. This committee's primary mandate will be to develop/review operational and strategic policies concerning the delivery of services by LAM. The committee will also develop/review policies concerning the evaluation of the quality and cost effectiveness of the services provided by LAM.

In the upcoming fiscal year, the Policy/Services Committee will be working closely with LAM staff to revise and update the Area Director's manual. The Area Director's manual outlines the financial guidelines and current policies used to assess a client's eligibility for legal aid representation.

4. **Appeals Committee** – The Appeals Committee and its procedures are established as part of LAM's Act and Regulations. The Appeals Committee membership currently includes three councillors. The Appeals Committee reviews matters where clients are appealing decisions made regarding the rejection of their legal aid application, conditions or restrictions imposed on the provision of legal aid services and/or cancellations of an applicant's legal aid coverage. The committee also hears tariff appeals where solicitors are appealing the amount he or she was paid for providing legal aid services. During 2007/08, the Appeals Committee met 14 times to hear client and tariff appeals.

5. **Advisory Committee** – LAM's Act requires that Management Council create and maintain an Advisory Committee. Established in April 2006, LAM's Advisory Committee provides Management Council with:

- Input and recommendations on LAM's tariff of fees;
- Advice on matters of general or regional concern respecting the provision of legal aid;
- Advice on the needs of individuals and groups receiving legal aid; and
- Study and make recommendations on matters referred to it by Council.

LAM's Advisory Committee currently consists of eight members. The committee's membership includes representation from private bar counsel, LAM staff counsel and members reflecting the cultural diversity of Manitoba, rural and northern Manitoba, and/or familiar with issues commonly faced by low-income individuals.

During 2007/08, the Advisory Committee met four times. The Advisory Committee was involved in the tariff review process, forwarding input and recommendations on LAM's Tariff Increase Proposal. The Advisory Committee also started preliminary discussions on the adequacy of LAM's financial eligibility guidelines.

STRATEGIC PLAN

During 2007/08, Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM) moved forward with the implementation of its strategic and business plan for the organization. The following update provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken to fulfil LAM's core strategic initiatives.

CORE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 1 – Improve direct service delivery

Goal: To review and increase the accountability, efficiency and ability of our programs to meet client needs.

Initiatives:

1. Improve Client Services
2. Improve relations with Private Bar
3. Deal with lawyer shortage

Results:

LAM focused primarily on addressing the retention of private bar lawyers. Specifically, LAM met with private bar lawyers on the Tariff Review Committee and consulted with the Advisory Committee to develop a proposal addressing the shortcomings in LAM's tariff. Based on these discussions, Management Council petitioned the Province to authorize a tariff increase to \$80/hr for certificate and duty counsel work. These discussions also allowed LAM to gain a greater understanding of the reasons the organization is having difficulties retaining/attracting lawyers to take legal aid certificates.

LAM implemented several changes to make certain legal aid work more attractive for private bar counsel. More specifically, LAM increased the remuneration rates paid for Brydges On-call as well as for the Weekend Bail Court. LAM also began offering legal research services through Legal Aid Ontario's Law Memorandum Services as a means to assist counsel working on legal aid certificates.

LAM has devoted considerable time to improve its clients services. More specifically, LAM began reviews of the organization's financial eligibility guidelines and Area Directors' Manual. In the upcoming fiscal year, LAM anticipates submitting a funding proposal to the provincial government seeking an increase to our financial eligibility guidelines. LAM expects to release an updated Area Directors' Manual in the new year.

A staff committee was also formed to begin reviewing all client correspondence using plain language guidelines. It is anticipated that revising our communications with clients will make it easier for them to access legal aid and understand what services they are getting.

CORE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 2 – Improve internal support services

Goal: To review and revamp LAM's delivery of support services to its employees, thereby strengthening employee knowledge and satisfaction within the work environment.

1. Improve HR Management
2. Improve our resource management
3. Improve support staff management
4. Technological improvements
5. Communications

Results:

LAM worked with Manitoba Justice to secure a dedicated human resources position for the organization. Through this collaboration, LAM was able to hire an in-house HR consultant in November 2007. Securing the position has allowed LAM to move forward on a number of human resource initiatives identified in the strategic planning process. More specifically, the HR consultant has worked on consolidating LAM's HR functions, filling LAM's vacant employee positions, lobbying for the conversion of contract staff to civil service from Manitoba Justice, as well as developing HR processes on recruitment and termination for LAM.

LAM has also worked towards improving its resource management by sharing more detailed financial information within the organization. In 2007/08, LAM hosted a series of professional development sessions for staff in management/supervisory positions. The sessions were geared towards providing staff with current management practices and strategies.

LAM has continued to work on improving its technological capabilities. More specifically, LAM continued to make adjustments to LAMAS to improve its functionality, started preliminary work on replacing its antiquated accounting software package, and assessed the organization's current and future technological needs.

A number of positive steps were also taken to improve LAM's internal and external communications capabilities. In 2007/08, LAM improved internal communication within the organization by establishing a weekly Intranet news column, a quarterly newsletter, and monthly lunch information sessions. LAM improved external communications by re-branding LAM with a new logo and integrated look, revamping and launching a new bilingual website, developing and revising brochures and fact sheets, as well as maintaining representation at the University of Manitoba Law School's Career Day and Law Day.

Upcoming goals for this core strategic initiative include: hosting plain language training sessions for staff, filling LAM's vacant employee positions, converting existing contract staff to civil service positions, developing an employee orientation manual for new employees, developing a workplace health and safety procedures manual, continuing with professional development for line supervisors, implementing a new computerized accounting system, as well as improving desktop computer terminal performance and data transcription capabilities.

CORE STRATEGIC INITIATIVE 3 – Implement new governance structure

Goal: To clearly delineate and communicate the roles of Management Council and the Executive Management Committee within Legal Aid Manitoba (LAM).

Initiatives:

1. Review Council and Executive roles
2. Develop self-assessment and appraisal tools

Results:

Management Council worked extensively on developing LAM's new governance structure. The resulting governance manual was implemented as a means of outlining the roles and responsibilities for staff and other key stakeholders in the organization.

For the upcoming fiscal year, Management Council and LAM will continue to further develop specific guidelines and principles within the governance manual.

STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLAN BENCHMARK MEASUREMENTS

During 2007/08, LAM worked to develop performance measurement tools for the strategic and business plan. The Strategic Planning Executive Group (SPEG) prepared a proposal and secured approval from Management Council to solicit feedback from key stakeholders (i.e. PB, staff and clients) about LAM's core initiatives.

LAM anticipates that its strategic/business plan feedback and reporting mechanism will be implemented in the upcoming fiscal year.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act

The Public Interest Disclosure (Whistleblower Protection) Act came into effect in April 2007. This law gives employees a clear process for disclosing concerns about significant and serious matters (wrongdoing) in the Manitoba public service, and strengthens protection from reprisal. The Act builds on protections already in place under other statutes, as well as collective bargaining rights, policies, practices and processes in the Manitoba public service.

Wrongdoing under the Act may be: contravention of federal or provincial legislation; an act or omission that endangers public safety, public health or the environment; gross mismanagement; or, knowingly directing or counseling a person to commit a wrongdoing. The Act is not intended to deal with routine operational or administrative matters.

A disclosure made by an employee in good faith, in accordance with the Act, and with a reasonable belief that wrongdoing has been or is about to be committed is considered to be a disclosure under the Act, whether or not the subject matter constitutes wrongdoing. All disclosures receive careful and thorough review to determine if action is required under the Act, and must be reported in a department's annual report in accordance with Section 18 of the Act.

The following is a summary of disclosures received by Legal Aid Manitoba [a department of Manitoba Justice] for fiscal year 2007 – 2008:

Information Required annually (Per Section 18 of The Act)	Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008
The number of disclosures received, and the number acted on and not acted on. <i>Subsection 18(2)(a)</i>	NIL
The number of investigations commenced as a result of a disclosure. <i>Subsection 18(2)(b)</i>	NIL
In the case of an investigation that results in a finding of wrongdoing, a description of the wrongdoing and any recommendations or corrective actions taken in relation to the wrongdoing, or the reasons why no corrective action was taken. <i>Subsection 18(2)(c)</i>	NIL

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

OUR HISTORY 36 YEARS OF SERVICE

Legal Aid Manitoba provides legal help to people with low incomes. We strive to serve all clients with respect and dignity.

Legal Aid Manitoba works to ensure people with low incomes have the protections guaranteed in Canada by *The Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, enacted as part of *The Constitution Act* in 1982. Our service is fundamental to a fair and balanced justice system.

In the 1930s and 1940s, The Law Society of Manitoba set up Canada's first program for poor people, so they might get free legal help. Lawyers volunteered their time. However, demand for legal services grew rapidly and lawyers quickly became overburdened with cases.

Legal Aid became a legislated program in Manitoba in 1971 and opened its doors to clients in 1972. Legal Aid Manitoba operates at arms length from government. We are funded by the Province of Manitoba, the Government of Canada, the Manitoba Law Foundation and fees paid by clients.

Today we serve rural and northern Manitobans through four regional offices. Lawyers and paralegals regularly travel to more than 40 outlying communities.

OUR MANDATE

Legal Aid Manitoba is governed by *The Legal Aid Manitoba Act* as approved by members of the provincial legislature. The Act requires that we:

- Provide quality legal advice and representation to eligible low-income individuals
- Administer the delivery of legal aid in a cost-effective and efficient manner
- Provide advice to the Minister on legal aid generally and on the specific legal needs of low-income individuals

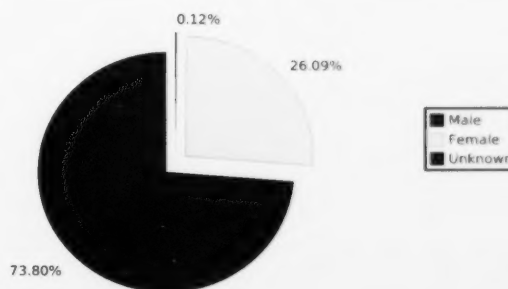
OUR KEY SERVICES FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY, WE HELP:

- People with family issues such as divorce, child custody, maintenance enforcement and child protection matters
- Adults and youth who are facing criminal charges
- People with disputes involving welfare, workers compensation or disability benefits
- Groups and individuals with test cases in the areas of consumer, poverty, environmental, Aboriginal and Charter of Rights challenges
- We do not handle real estate transactions, wills and estates, adoptions, corporate and commercial matters, or civil litigation matters such as people suing each other

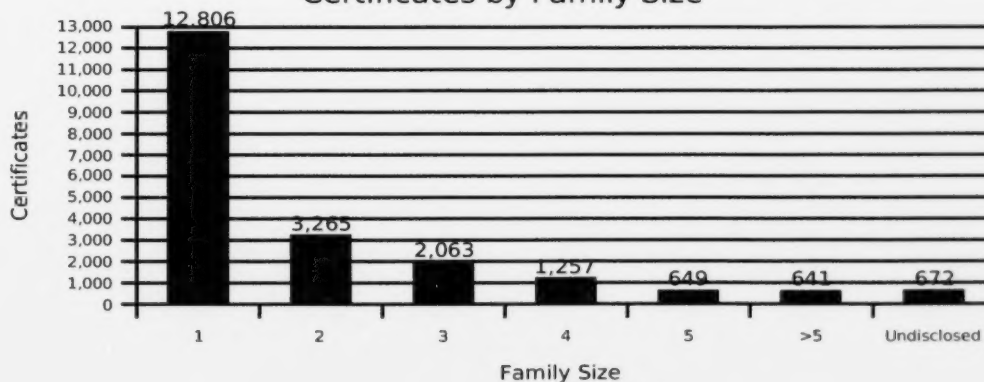
Certificates - Gender Distribution (%)

The vast majority of people seeking help from Legal Aid Manitoba are male.

Most people who apply for Legal Aid Manitoba assistance are single.



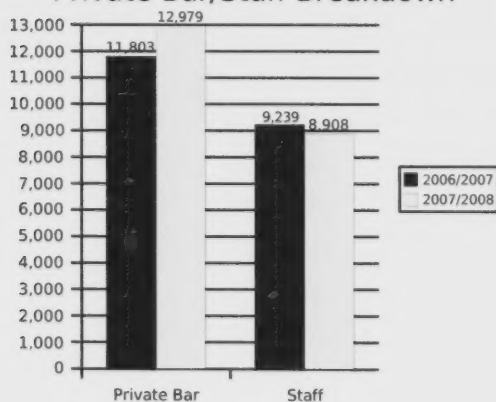
Certificates by Family Size



COMMUNITY LAW OFFICE STATISTICS

	Agassiz Law Centre	Criminal Law Office	Northlands Community Law Centre	Parklands Community Law Centre	Public Interest Law Centre	Somerset Law Office	Thompson Community Law Centre	University Law Centre	Westman Community Law Centre	Winnipeg Law Office	ALL COMMUNITY LAW OFFICES
Supervising Attorney	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	10
Staff Lawyer	4	16	1	3	1	12	3	0	2	5	47
Paralegal	1	4	1	3	0	5	0	0	1	0	15
Articling Student	0	3	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	9
Office Manager	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Support Staff	3	7	1	2	1	10	4	1	3	4	36
Total	9	33	5	9	4	32	8	1	7	11	119

Private Bar/Staff Breakdown

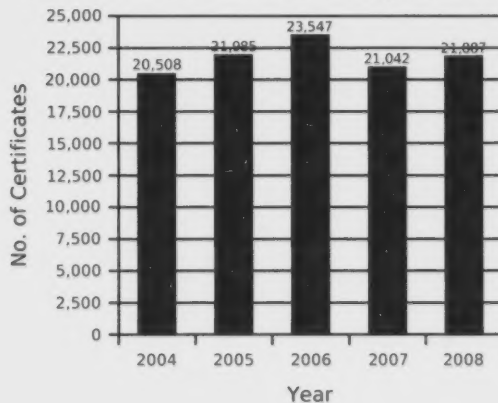


Just over half of all Legal Aid Manitoba certificates are handled by our private bar partners.

LEGAL AID CASE VOLUME HISTORY

Area	Certificates Issued					
	Civil		Criminal		Youth	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Brandon	518	557	972	1,006	209	233
Dauphin	388	488	952	801	300	302
The Pas & Thompson	537	712	2,487	2,243	668	487
Winnipeg	4,247	4,523	8,234	7,602	2,375	2,088
Provincial Total	5,690	6,280	12,645	11,652	3,552	3,110

Total Case Historical Comparison



Case Breakdown by Category



The majority of cases we handle involve people facing criminal charges.

LEGAL AID ACTIVITY BY AREA

Area	Applications for Legal Aid Certificates		Applications Refused		Certificates Issued						Certificates Cancelled		Persons Assisted Duty Counsel	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	Civil		Criminal		Youth		2008	2007	2008	2007
Brandon	1,801	2,072	495	550	518	557	972	1,006	209	233	128	129	3,434	3,134
Dauphin	1,522	1,753	345	369	388	488	952	801	300	302	119	140	1,840	2,841
The Pas & Thompson	3,069	3,153	426	342	537	712	2,487	2,243	668	487	431	216	5,748	5,223
Winnipeg	15,718	16,527	4,876	3,764	4,247	4,523	8,234	7,602	2,375	2,088	1,808	2,118	31,469	29,928
Provincial Total	22,110	23,505	6,142	5,025	5,690	6,280	12,645	11,652	3,552	3,110	2,486	2,603	42,491	41,126

NOTES:

- In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008 there were a total of 21,887 (21,042) certificates issued. Of this total, 8,908 (9,239) were assigned to staff lawyers through the following community law centres.

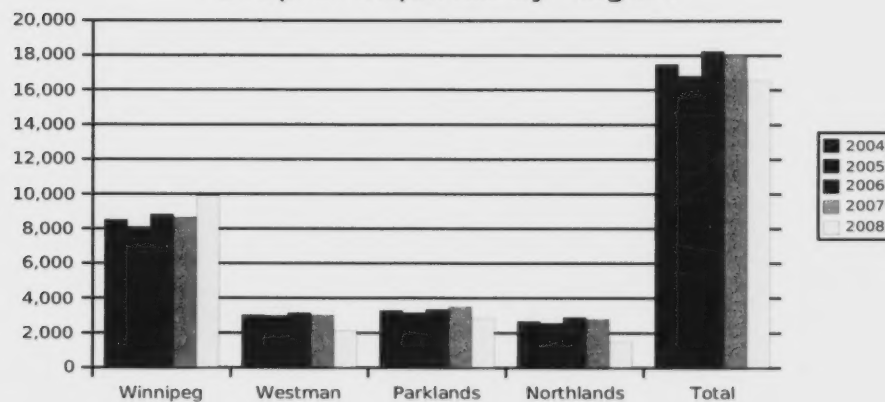
Winnipeg	5,691	5,371
Westman	915	1,061
Parklands	908	894
Northlands	487	671
Thompson	907	1,242
	<u>8,908</u>	<u>9,239</u>
- In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2008 there was a total of 42,491 (41,126) people assisted by Duty Counsel Services; of this total 34,995 (35,706) were assisted by staff lawyers through the following community law centres.

Winnipeg	- somerset law office	2,616	3,134
	- criminal law office	21,235	21,593
	- agassiz law office	1,715	979
	- winnipeg law office	1,517	720
Westman		3,428	3,058
Parklands		1,834	2,835
Northlands		1,298	1,138
Thompson		1,352	2,249
		<u>34,995</u>	<u>35,706</u>
- For the year ended March 31, 2008 6,142 (27.8%) of the applications for Legal Aid were refused as compared to 5,025 (21.4%) in the previous year.

4. For the year ended March 31, 2008 there was a total of 16,541 (18,028) phone and drop-in inquiries. The following represents the break-down by community law centre:

Winnipeg	- administration	747	468
	- somerset law office	2,638	3,070
	- criminal law office	4,502	3,822
	- agassiz law office	1,042	781
	- winnipeg law office	389	218
	- university law clinic	582	295
Westman		2,161	3,044
Parklands		2,921	3,523
Northlands		1,057	850
Thompson		502	1,957
		<u>16,541</u>	<u>18,028</u>

Drop-In Inquiries by Region



5. For the year ended March 31, 2008 there was a total of 80,919 (80,196) people assisted either on a formal or informal basis, an increase of 0.9% (decrease of 0.5%) over the previous year.

27.05% Certificates and certificate equivalents	21,887	21,042
52.51% Duty counsel	42,491	41,126
20.44% Telephone and drop-in inquiries	16,541	18,028
Total	<u>80,919</u>	<u>80,196</u>

ANALYSIS OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Certificate Classification	Private Bar		Law Centres		Totals	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
CRIMINAL ADULT						
Murder	50	59	14	8	64	67
Attempt Murder	18	17	6	8	24	25
Manslaughter	9	13	0	2	9	15
Sexual Assault - A	17	14	2	4	19	18
Sexual Assault - Indictable	180	215	59	100	239	315
Assault - B	239	226	94	75	333	301
Robbery	367	408	111	119	478	527
Cause Harm/Death	32	37	9	19	41	56
Other Sexual Offences - B	56	43	27	29	83	72
Arson	56	47	22	26	78	73
Narcotics - B	445	407	228	207	673	614
Incest	3	0	1	1	4	1
Sexual Assault - Summary	55	46	28	27	83	73
Miscellaneous - B	25	20	11	14	36	34
Other Sexual Offences - C	10	6	9	5	19	11
Break, Enter	610	710	288	299	898	1,009
Possess Weapon Dangerous to Public Peace	194	188	87	113	281	301
Theft - Indictable	105	110	71	76	176	186
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Indictable	87	78	41	34	128	112
Forgery/Uttering	40	63	32	46	72	109
Fraud - Indictable	20	15	17	15	37	30
False Pretences - Indictable	3	1	1	5	4	6
Mischief	246	223	175	129	421	352
U.A.L./Escape	55	50	23	21	78	71
Other Weapons Offences - C	72	59	26	30	98	89
Communication for the Purpose	24	20	19	14	43	34
Other Narcotics - C	126	94	69	54	195	148
M.V.O. - Federal	274	224	263	214	537	438
Uttering Threats	412	344	204	181	616	525
Obstruction	90	71	45	51	135	122
Breach Probation	737	698	395	331	1,132	1,029
Fraud - Summary	33	48	35	32	68	80
False Pretences - Summary	5	3	5	3	10	6
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Summary	100	93	36	24	136	117
Theft - Summary	314	330	288	176	602	506
Other Breach and F.T.A.	1,129	736	534	377	1,663	1,113
Assault - C	1,859	1,635	929	1,054	2,788	2,689
M.V.O. - Provincial	21	23	12	14	33	37
Other Federal Offence	98	113	71	72	169	185
Other Provincial Offence	11	11	8	7	19	18
Parole/Prison Law	7	16	30	48	37	64
Appeals - Client	44	38	9	13	53	51
Appeals - Crown	5	7	2	3	7	10
Junior Counsel	18	13	8		26	13
Total Criminal Adult	8,301	7,572	4,344	4,080	12,645	11,652

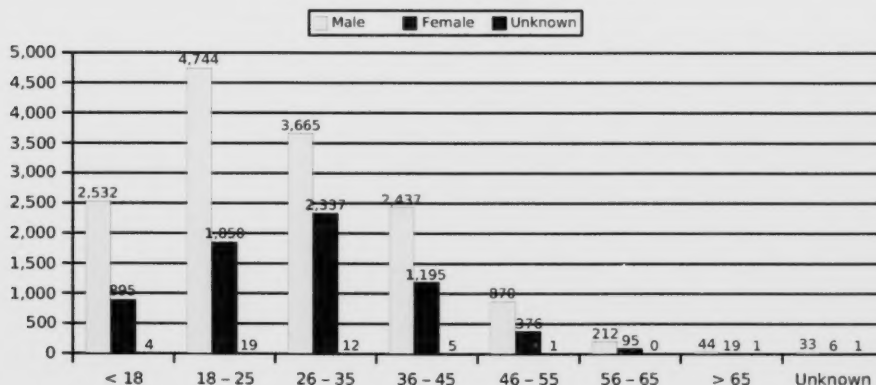
ANALYSIS OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED

<i>Certificate Classification</i>	<i>Private Bar</i>		<i>Law Centres</i>		<i>Totals</i>	
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>
CRIMINAL YOUTH						
Murder	20	17	4	1	24	18
Attempt Murder	6	2	4	0	10	2
Manslaughter	0	4	0	1	0	5
Sexual Assault - A	0	0	0	1	0	1
Sexual Assault - Indictable	20	17	8	14	28	31
Assault - B	62	53	22	21	84	74
Robbery	147	142	65	70	212	212
Cause Harm/Death	7	5	0	6	7	11
Other Sexual Offences - B	14	8	9	4	23	12
Arson	48	34	19	18	67	52
Narcotics - B	70	67	44	41	114	108
Sexual Assault - Summary	11	10	7	12	18	22
Miscellaneous - B	1	1	2	1	3	2
Other Sexual Offences - C	1	1	1	0	2	1
Break, Enter	337	282	165	197	502	479
Possess Weapon Dangerous to Public Peace	91	83	44	48	135	131
Theft - Indictable	79	66	38	53	117	119
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Indictable	66	37	16	20	82	57
Forgery/Uttering	3	6	1	0	4	6
Fraud - Indictable	0	1	1	1	1	2
Mischief	132	72	70	114	202	186
U.A.L./Escape	19	15	4	5	23	20
Other Weapons Offences - C	26	21	14	12	40	33
Communication for the Purpose	2	0	0	0	2	0
Other Narcotics - C	44	29	24	22	68	51
M.V.O. - Federal	27	8	11	25	38	33
Uttering Threats	61	53	40	44	101	97
Obstruction	14	15	12	6	26	21
Breach Probation	63	40	35	27	98	67
Fraud - Summary	5	5	4	7	9	12
False Pretences - Summary	1	0	0	0	1	0
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Summary	39	36	26	24	65	60
Theft - Summary	107	87	65	94	172	181
Other Breach and F.T.A.	213	86	101	66	314	152
Assault - C	328	231	149	184	477	415
M.V.O. - Provincial	0	1	2	0	2	1
Other Federal Offences	13	6	8	15	21	21
Other Provincial Offences	6	2	3	1	9	3
Parole/Prison Law	0	0	0	1	0	1
Youth Reviews/Breaches	318	242	124	159	442	401
Appeals - Youth	6	2	0	8	6	10
Appeals - Crown	1	0	1	0	2	0
Junior Counsel	0	0	1	0	1	0
Total Criminal Youth	2,408	1,787	1,144	1,323	3,552	3,110

ANALYSIS OF CERTIFICATES ISSUED

Certificate Classification	Private Bar		Law Centres		Totals	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
CIVIL						
Divorce	274	342	514	563	788	905
Separation	510	616	838	1,079	1,348	1,695
Variation: Maintenance/Enforcement	170	237	223	293	393	530
C.F.S.	518	484	735	701	1,253	1,185
Adoption	2	4	3	0	5	4
Parentage Proceeding	338	313	661	672	999	985
Immigration	63	65	0	0	63	65
Welfare Matters	7	4	42	64	49	68
Other Administrative	2	11	4	15	6	26
Landlord/Tenant	7	3	16	18	23	21
Appeals - Civil	13	10	20	15	33	25
Legal Opinions - Civil	2	11	20	21	22	32
Other - Civil	9	3	12	16	21	19
Youth Court Appointed/Amicus	65	30	35	40	100	70
Workers Compensation	0	1	8	8	8	9
Mental Health Matters	7	10	14	13	21	23
Estate Matters	0	0	0	1	0	1
Defendant - Civil Suit	2	0	0	0	2	0
Private Guardianship	73	91	86	112	159	203
Enforcement Only	22	5	15	7	37	12
Variation: Access/Custody	158	182	140	170	298	352
Grandparent Access	1	0	3	0	4	0
Other Family	27	22	31	28	58	50
Total Civil	2,270	2,444	3,420	3,836	5,690	6,280

Certificate - Age Distribution



ANALYSIS OF COMPLETED CASES BY TYPE

PRIVATE BAR ONLY

<i>Type of Aid</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>		<i>Total Fees and Disbursements</i>		<i>Average Cost Per Case</i>	
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>
CRIMINAL ADULT						
Murder	50	40	605,531	359,512	12,110.62	8,987.81
Attempt Murder	17	22	59,725	118,142	3,513.21	5,370.07
Manslaughter	14	9	86,307	38,203	6,164.78	4,244.83
Sexual Assault - A	13	15	12,881	34,377	990.87	2,291.79
Sexual Assault - Indictable	178	203	227,904	247,417	1,280.36	1,218.80
Assault - B	232	211	299,554	258,538	1,291.18	1,225.30
Robbery	383	362	380,237	353,506	992.79	976.54
Cause Harm/Death	31	30	26,622	30,259	858.76	1,008.63
Other Sexual Offences - B	36	44	30,459	43,047	846.08	978.35
Arson	44	46	39,559	35,051	899.08	761.99
Narcotics - B	449	365	327,597	294,410	729.61	806.60
Incest	2	0	1,155	0	577.55	0.00
Sexual Assault - Summary	49	48	44,092	28,003	899.83	583.40
Miscellaneous - B	20	19	20,319	23,000	1,015.95	1,210.51
Other Sexual Offences - C	6	10	2,411	9,484	401.79	948.38
Break, Enter	666	720	299,026	325,265	448.99	451.76
Possess Weapon Dangerous to Public Peace	189	175	80,547	79,795	426.17	455.97
Theft - Indictable	108	99	48,336	42,967	447.55	434.01
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Indictable	91	69	35,052	24,125	385.19	349.64
Forgery/Uttering	51	68	18,588	33,798	364.46	497.02
Fraud - Indictable	12	15	10,280	48,007	856.63	3,200.48
False Pretences - Indictable	1	0	176	0	176.11	0.00
Mischief	243	203	84,901	78,617	349.39	387.28
U.A.L./Escape	52	48	17,486	17,648	336.26	367.67
Other Weapons Offences - C	67	74	34,118	33,473	509.22	452.34
Communication for the Purpose	22	13	6,254	4,531	284.26	348.56
Other Narcotics - C	129	81	49,903	30,591	386.84	377.66
M.V.O. - Federal	241	199	99,925	82,791	414.62	416.04
Uttering Threats	391	341	163,630	155,213	418.49	455.17
Obstruction	69	63	23,544	29,263	341.22	464.50
Breach Probation	713	712	236,315	240,598	331.44	337.92
Fraud - Summary	40	39	15,242	13,690	381.06	351.02
False Pretences - Summary	4	8	978	2,245	244.39	280.59
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Summary	91	85	28,539	27,687	313.61	325.73
Theft - Summary	344	318	106,510	100,293	309.62	315.39
Other Breach and F.T.A.	1,014	602	324,233	216,024	319.76	358.84
Assault - C	1,749	1,621	727,447	741,222	415.92	457.26
M.V.O. - Provincial	24	13	10,016	5,367	417.35	412.87
Other Federal Offences	99	113	57,708	54,411	582.91	481.51
Other Provincial Offences	15	10	65,953	7,930	4,396.89	792.95
Parole/Prison Law	3	15	717	6,627	238.87	441.80
Appeals - Client	51	34	171,041	66,644	3,353.75	1,960.12
Appeals - Crown	5	4	6,195	2,722	1,238.96	680.62
Junior Counsel	14	11	103,232	58,071	7,373.74	5,279.15
Total Criminal Adult	8,022	7,177	4,990,243	4,402,568	622.07	613.43

ANALYSIS OF COMPLETED CASES BY TYPE

PRIVATE BAR ONLY

<i>Type of Aid</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>		<i>Total Fees and Disbursements</i>		<i>Average Cost Per Case</i>	
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>
CRIMINAL YOUTH						
Murder	15	6	86,094	30,744	5,739.63	5,123.98
Attempt Murder	1	5	343	13,625	343.12	2,724.94
Manslaughter	1	1	4,215	31,025	4,215.08	31,024.79
Sexual Assault - Weapon	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Sexual Assault - Indictable	19	14	17,173	9,492	903.83	678.01
Assault - B	62	42	67,326	42,524	1,085.90	1,012.49
Robbery	143	132	106,303	113,872	743.38	862.67
Cause Harm/Death	8	3	6,805	1,249	850.59	416.50
Other Sexual Offences - B	13	2	8,909	1,784	685.27	892.10
Arson	39	25	31,389	21,939	804.83	877.56
Narcotics - B	76	48	44,356	35,234	583.63	734.05
Sexual Assault - Summary	8	8	3,272	4,513	408.97	564.18
Miscellaneous - B	3	4	2,301	2,091	766.98	522.73
Other Sexual Offences - C	1	3	1,564	1,928	1,564.00	642.58
Break, Enter	313	301	110,680	120,082	353.61	398.94
Possess Weapon Dangerous to Public Peace	89	85	30,383	37,996	341.38	447.01
Theft - Indictable	65	67	22,816	22,763	351.01	339.74
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Indictable	53	28	15,756	9,672	297.28	345.44
Forgery/Uttering	5	4	1,411	1,958	282.24	489.55
Fraud - Indictable	0	2	0	744	0	372.12
Mischief	107	67	33,489	22,568	312.99	336.84
U.A.L./Escape	18	13	5,943	6,349	330.14	488.38
Other Weapons Offences	22	21	9,498	7,750	431.73	369.03
Communication for the Purpose	2	0	323	0	161.56	0.00
Other Narcotics - C	37	21	11,411	7,603	308.39	362.04
M.V.O. - Federal	19	8	5,743	3,238	302.26	404.71
Uttering Threats	42	55	13,402	22,239	319.10	404.35
Obstruction	13	13	4,197	8,044	322.86	618.79
Breach Probation	52	36	16,413	11,493	315.63	319.25
Fraud - Summary	3	4	469	959	156.47	239.76
False Pretences - Summary	1	0	312	0	312.16	0.00
Possess Goods Obtained by Crime - Summary	40	34	13,668	13,233	341.70	389.19
Theft - Summary	97	85	29,016	26,365	299.13	310.18
Other Breach and F.T.A.	186	67	54,383	22,511	292.38	335.98
Assault - C	279	239	105,664	96,171	378.72	402.39
M.V.O. - Provincial	1	0	314	0	0	0.00
Other Federal Offences	9	9	4,512	2,515	501.33	279.45
Other Provincial Offences	5	2	1,582	937	316.41	468.56
Youth Reviews/Breaches	287	241	85,506	75,249	297.93	312.24
Appeals - Youth	4	4	5,874	3,230	1,468.52	807.39
Appeals - Crown	1	0	718	0	717.70	0.00
Junior Counsel	2	0	7,985	0	3,992.29	0.00
Total Criminal Youth	2,141	1,699	971,516	833,689	453.77	490.69

ANALYSIS OF COMPLETED CASES BY TYPE

PRIVATE BAR ONLY

<i>Type of Aid</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>		<i>Total Fees and Disbursements</i>		<i>Average Cost Per Case</i>	
	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>
CIVIL						
Divorce	359	438	342,670	368,446	954.51	841.20
Separation	549	711	451,076	512,285	821.63	720.51
Variation: Maintenance/Enforcement	242	326	178,246	232,621	736.55	713.56
C.F.S.	454	465	421,512	417,324	928.44	897.47
Adoption	4	9	1,897	5,549	474.37	616.59
Parentage Proceeding	298	387	202,139	263,298	678.32	680.36
Immigration	113	45	77,154	34,031	682.77	756.24
Welfare Matters	7	3	3,946	2,676	563.78	892.07
Other Administrative	1	9	821	9,045	821.45	1,004.96
Landlord/Tenant	6	3	3,080	1,611	513.35	536.85
Appeals - Civil	10	9	13,048	11,056	1,304.82	1,228.44
Legal Opinions - Civil	6	6	2,823	1,424	470.52	237.30
Other - Civil	7	5	1,920	16,324	274.30	3,264.88
Youth Court Appointed/Amicus	45	28	39,348	26,447	874.39	944.53
Workers Compensation	1	1	498	1,813	498.26	1,812.74
Mental Health Matters	8	6	5,195	3,754	649.32	625.67
Estate Matters	1	2	469	966	468.50	482.81
Defendant - Civil Suit	1	2	33,035	1,019	33,034.57	509.69
Private Guardianship	106	97	77,142	68,734	727.76	708.59
Enforcement Only	12	8	5,207	4,239	433.94	529.87
Variation: Access/Custody	170	219	144,854	190,394	852.08	869.38
Disbursements Only	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other Family	23	23	13,261	19,171	576.58	833.51
Total Civil	2,424	2,802	2,019,342	2,192,226	833.06	782.38

PRIVATE BAR STATISTICS

FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS BY AREA

	Total Fees and Disbursements		Completed Cases		Average Cost Per Case	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
CRIMINAL ADULT						
Brandon	194,088	173,536	429	386	452.42	449.57
Dauphin	216,892	191,000	473	398	458.55	479.90
The Pas & Thompson	503,860	521,579	1,233	1,052	408.65	495.80
Winnipeg	4,075,403	3,516,454	5,887	5,341	692.27	658.39
CRIMINAL YOUTH						
Brandon	26,117	19,229	66	50	395.71	384.59
Dauphin	49,362	67,746	115	128	429.24	529.27
The Pas & Thompson	131,181	88,532	321	203	408.66	436.12
Winnipeg	764,856	658,182	1,639	1,318	466.66	499.38
CIVIL						
Brandon	174,031	167,960	274	202	635.15	831.48
Dauphin	115,543	99,128	183	140	631.38	708.06
The Pas & Thompson	90,567	165,796	152	278	595.83	596.39
Winnipeg	1,639,201	1,759,343	1,815	2,182	903.14	806.30
Totals	7,981,102	7,428,483	12,587	11,678	634.07	636.11

NOTE: Reconciliation to private bar fees and disbursements disclosed on the financial statements:

Fees and disbursements per private system as above
Add: Accruals

7,981,102
(39,538)

Fees and disbursements on an accrual basis as
per the financial statements

7,941,564

DUTY COUNSEL FEES AND DISBURSEMENTS

AREA	Total Fees and Disbursements		Persons Assisted		Average Cost Per Case	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Brandon	314	1,603	6	76	52.25	21.09
Dauphin	1,549	1,048	6	6	258.13	174.68
The Pas & Thompson	284,140	75,179	3,088	1,836	92.01	40.95
Winnipeg	174,264	142,464	4,392	3,503	39.68	40.67
Totals	460,267	220,294	7,492	5,421	61.43	40.64

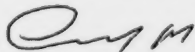
NOTE: The financial statements show total duty counsel disbursements of \$696,933. That figure includes disbursements of \$15,470 for Age and Opportunity, \$182,469 for on-call duty counsel, and a \$38,727 accrual adjustment recorded in the fiscal year.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL REPORTING

The accompanying financial statements of Legal Aid Manitoba are the responsibility of management and have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies stated in Note 2 to the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2008.

As management is responsible for the integrity of the financial statements, management has established systems of internal control to provide reasonable assurance that assets are properly accounted for and safeguarded from loss.

The responsibility of the Auditor General is to express an independent professional opinion on whether the financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with the accounting policies stated in the financial statements. The Auditor's Report outlines the scope of the audit examination and provides the audit opinion.



Gil D. Clifford
Acting Executive Director
Legal Aid Manitoba

July 21, 2008



AUDITORS' REPORT

**To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba
To the Management Council of Legal Aid Manitoba**

We have audited the balance sheet of Legal Aid Manitoba as at March 31, 2008 and the statements of revenue and expense, changes in net assets and cash flow for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of Legal Aid Manitoba's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Legal Aid Manitoba as at March 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flow for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Office of the Auditor General

Office of the Auditor General

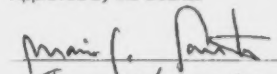
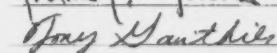
Winnipeg, Manitoba
July 21, 2008

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Balance Sheet
as at March 31

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 1,804,400	\$ 2,086,968
Client accounts receivable, net (Note 3)	150,956	183,081
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba	5,918,000	4,100,000
Receivable from the Government of Canada	148,797	324,834
Other receivables, net (Note 4)	66,711	82,061
Prepaid expenses	202,152	263,744
	8,291,016	7,040,688
Capital Assets (Note 5)	346,743	351,475
Long-term receivable - charges on land, net (Note 6)	726,238	757,005
Long-term receivable - severance - Province of Manitoba (Note 7)	716,166	716,166
Long-term receivable - pension - Province of Manitoba (Note 14)	12,063,756	11,051,780
	<u>\$ 22,143,919</u>	<u>\$ 19,917,115</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 4,351,454	\$ 4,292,301
Accrued vacation pay	892,488	846,747
Deferred revenue from clients	421,058	408,548
	5,665,000	5,547,596
Severance liability (Note 8)	1,533,709	1,435,200
Provision for employee pension benefits (Note 14)	12,063,756	11,051,780
	13,597,465	12,486,980
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets	346,743	351,475
Restricted Net Assets	78,559	91,107
Unrestricted Net Assets	2,456,152	1,439,956
	2,881,454	1,882,538
	<u>\$ 22,143,919</u>	<u>\$ 19,917,114</u>

Approved by the Council

 Chairperson
 Council Member

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Statement of Revenue and Expense for the year ended March 31

	2008	2007
Revenue		
Province of Manitoba (Note 9)	\$ 20,750,223	\$ 20,677,425
Manitoba Law Foundation (Note 10)	3,290,634	1,493,901
Contributions from clients	850,293	838,954
Recoveries from third parties	435,517	273,784
Government of Canada	15,775	246,140
Judgment costs and settlements	89,580	102,722
Interest income	69,470	46,873
Other	8,723	3,087
	<u>\$ 25,510,215</u>	<u>\$ 23,682,887</u>
Expense		
Private bar fees and disbursements (Note 13)		
Legal aid certificates	\$ 7,941,564	\$ 7,481,994
Duty counsel services	696,933	295,686
Transcripts	77,487	81,383
	<u>8,715,984</u>	<u>7,859,063</u>
Community Law Centres, Schedule 1	10,199,725	9,546,499
Public Interest Law Centre, Schedule 1	642,314	565,327
University Law Centre, Schedule 1	103,017	96,663
General and Administrative, Schedule 1	4,850,259	5,049,831
	<u>\$ 24,511,299</u>	<u>\$ 23,117,383</u>
Excess of Revenue over Expense	<u>\$ 998,916</u>	<u>\$ 565,504</u>

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended March 31

	2008				2007
	Invested in Capital Assets	Restricted Net Assets (Note 15)	Unrestricted Net Assets	Total	Total
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 351,475	\$ 91,107	\$ 1,439,956	\$ 1,882,538	\$ 1,317,035
Restricted Net Assets Expenses	-	(12,548)	12,548	-	-
Excess of Revenue over Expense	(86,665)	-	1,085,581	998,916	565,503
Capital Asset Additions	81,933	-	(81,933)	-	-
BALANCE, END OF YEAR	\$ <u>346,743</u>	\$ <u>78,559</u>	\$ <u>2,456,152</u>	\$ <u>2,881,454</u>	\$ <u>1,882,538</u>

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Statement of Cash Flow for the year ended March 31

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash Flow Provided by (Used In) Operating Activities:		
Excess of Revenue over Expense	\$ 998,916	\$ 565,503
Add items not affecting cash		
Amortization	86,665	107,123
Bad debt expense	138,105	207,773
Changes in working capital:		
Client accounts receivable	(62,532)	(80,731)
Province of Manitoba receivable	(1,818,000)	165,000
Government of Canada receivable	176,037	(55,226)
Other receivables	(58,867)	(98,357)
Prepaid expenses	61,592	21,497
Accounts payable and accrued vacation pay	104,894	(183,882)
Deferred revenue	12,510	(5,341)
	<u>(360,680)</u>	<u>643,359</u>
Cash Flow Provided by (Used In) Financing Activities:		
Charges on land	61,536	3,495
Long-term funding commitments - pension	(1,011,976)	(1,028,751)
Severance liability	98,509	199,473
Provision for employee pension benefits	1,011,976	1,028,751
	<u>160,045</u>	<u>202,968</u>
Cash Flow Provided by (Used In) Investing Activities:		
Purchase of capital assets	(81,933)	(227,541)
	<u>(81,933)</u>	<u>(227,541)</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash for the Year	(282,568)	618,786
Cash - Beginning of Year	2,086,968	1,468,182
Cash - End of Year	\$ <u><u>1,804,400</u></u>	\$ <u><u>2,086,968</u></u>

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

SCHEDULE 1

Schedule of Expenses
for the year ended March 31

	COMMUNITY LAW CENTRES		PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CENTRE		UNIVERSITY LAW CENTRE		GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE		TOTAL	
	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	28,912	25,314	28,912	25,314
Amortization	56,564	77,786	3,314	2,967	390	-	26,397	26,370	86,665	107,123
Bad debts	-	-	-	-	-	-	138,105	207,773	138,105	207,773
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,140	2,190	2,140	2,190
Collection costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,525	7,481	9,525	7,481
Computer costs	10,778	13,473	1,965	-	1,391	-	41,465	29,932	55,599	43,405
Council expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-	122,480	112,045	122,480	112,045
Duty counsel	132,470	190,417	904	-	-	-	1,240	813	134,614	191,230
Equipment maintenance	96,567	85,481	8,839	11,509	-	-	65,532	47,996	170,938	144,986
Expert witnesses and consultants	-	-	13,775	25,350	-	-	-	-	13,775	25,350
File disbursements	272,891	231,382	189,931	45,158	811	978	26,226	26,935	489,859	304,453
Library	49,880	27,296	8,801	6,008	-	74	8,255	25,548	66,936	58,926
Meetings	27,757	27,818	630	13,610	-	-	19,633	18,436	48,020	59,864
Office expenses	190,254	184,766	14,355	14,325	3,785	3,580	124,855	155,222	333,249	357,893
Office relocation	3,011	4,371	-	-	-	-	933	1,133	3,944	5,504
Pension costs (note 14)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,296,456	1,258,250	1,296,456	1,258,250
Premise costs	626,258	612,674	23,260	23,495	45	39	159,627	172,316	809,190	808,524
Professional fees	102,279	127,375	7,335	8,999	-	-	146,691	153,192	256,305	289,566
Salaries, benefits and levy	8,260,629	7,712,682	350,584	400,896	88,677	86,869	2,369,454	2,333,361	11,069,344	10,533,808
Severance benefits	-	-	-	-	-	-	172,539	290,575	172,539	290,575
Staff development	110,985	39,699	5,018	1,877	7	-	19,338	84,088	135,348	125,664
Staff recruitment	56,942	22,159	624	105	-	-	5,291	10,327	62,857	32,591
Telephone	96,246	95,933	7,200	5,069	1,979	2,617	44,857	42,050	150,282	145,669
Transcripts	11,991	9,663	-	-	-	55	-	-	11,991	9,718
Travel	94,223	83,524	5,779	5,959	5,932	2,451	20,308	18,484	126,242	110,418
TOTAL	\$ 10,199,725	\$ 9,546,499	\$ 642,314	\$ 565,327	\$ 103,017	\$ 96,663	\$ 4,850,259	\$ 5,049,831	\$ 15,795,315	\$ 15,258,320

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

1. Nature of the Corporation

Legal Aid Manitoba (the Corporation) was established by an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba.

The purpose of the Corporation, as set out in the Act, is to service the public interest by:

- a) Providing quality legal advice and representation to eligible low-income individuals;
- b) Administering the delivery of legal aid in a cost-effective and efficient manner; and
- c) Providing advice to the Minister on legal aid generally and on the specific legal needs of low-income individuals.

The Corporation is economically dependent upon the Province of Manitoba. Other revenue sources include The Manitoba Law Foundation, individual clients, and third party agencies.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

a) General

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP).

b) New Accounting Policies

Effective April 1, 2007 the Corporation adopted the following new accounting standards issued by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA):

Section 1506, Accounting Changes

Section 1506 requires that voluntary changes in accounting policies are made only if they result in the financial statements providing reliable and more relevant information. Additional disclosure is required when the Corporation has not yet applied a new primary source of Canadian GAAP that has been issued but is not yet effective, as well as when changes in accounting estimates and errors occur. The adoption of this revised standard had no material impact on the entities' financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2008.

Section 3855, Financial Instruments – Recognition and Measurement

Section 3855 prescribes the criteria for recognition and presentation of financial instruments on the balance sheet and the measurement of financial instruments according to prescribed classifications. Under this section, financial assets and liabilities are initially recorded at fair value. This section also addresses how financial instruments are measured subsequent to initial recognition and how the gains and losses are recognized.

The Corporation is required to designate its financial instruments into one of the following five categories: held for trading; available for sale; held to maturity; loans and receivables; and other financial liabilities. All financial instruments classified as held for trading or available for sale are subsequently measured at fair value with

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

any change in fair value recorded in net earnings or directly to unrestricted net assets. All other financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortized cost.

The Corporation has designated its financial instruments as follows:

Cash is classified as financial assets held for trading and is measured at fair value with gains and losses recognized in net earnings. Due to the redeemable nature of this financial asset, carrying value is considered to be fair value.

Client accounts receivables, receivable from the Province of Manitoba, receivable from the Government of Canada, other receivables, long-term receivable from Province of Manitoba – severance, long-term receivable from Province of Manitoba – pension and long-term receivable – charges on land are classified as loans and receivables. These financial assets are recorded at their amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

Accounts payable and accrued vacation pay are classified as other financial liabilities. These financial liabilities are recorded at their amortized cost using the effective interest rate method.

The adoption of this revised standard had no material impact on the Corporation's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2008.

c) Financial Instruments

The Corporation's financial instruments consist of cash, client accounts receivables, receivable from the Province of Manitoba, receivable from the Government of Canada, other receivables, long-term receivable from Province of Manitoba – severance, long-term receivable from Province of Manitoba – pension and long-term receivable – charges on land and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The fair values of the client accounts receivable, receivable from the Province of Manitoba, receivable from the Government of Canada, other receivables and accounts payable and accrued vacation pay approximates their carrying values due to their short-term maturity.

The fair value of the long-term receivable from the Province of Manitoba – severance approximates its carrying value as the receivable includes an interest component as described in Note 7.

The fair value of the long-term receivable from the Province of Manitoba – pension approximates its carrying value as the receivable includes an interest component as described in Note 14.

It is management's opinion that the Corporation is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risk arising from these financial instruments.

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

d) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingencies at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

e) Future Accounting Policy Changes

The CICA has issued two new standards, CICA 3862: Financial Instruments – Disclosures and CICA 3863: Financial Instruments – Presentation, which enhance the abilities of users of financial statements to evaluate the significance of financial instruments to the Corporation, related exposures and the management of these risks.

The CICA has also issued a new standard, CICA 1535: Capital Disclosures, which requires the disclosure of qualitative and quantitative information that enables users of financial statements to evaluate the Corporation's objectives, policies and processes for managing capital.

These changes in accounting policies, which will be adopted effective April 1, 2008, will only require additional disclosures in the financial statements.

f) Revenue Recognition

The Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

g) Recognition of Contributions from Clients

Clients may be required to pay a portion or all of the legal costs incurred on their behalf by the Corporation based on the clients' ability to pay.

i) Agreements to Pay

Clients who are able to pay, sign an agreement to pay for their portion of the applicable legal costs. The amount the client is required to pay is specified on the Legal Aid Certificate. The revenue and receivable are recognized when the certificate is signed.

ii) Expanded Eligibility

Under terms of expanded eligibility, clients are required to pay all of the legal

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

costs and an administration fee of 25% of the Corporation's cost of the case up to a maximum of \$250. The revenue and receivable are recognized based on the date of the lawyer's billing.

iii) Charges on Land

Charges on Land are registered under Section 17 of the Corporation Act in a Land Titles Office against property owned by clients. The revenue and receivable are recognized at the later of the date the lien is filed or the date of the lawyer's billing. Collection of these accounts in the future is dependent on the client disposing of the property or arranging for payment.

h) Allowance for Doubtful Accounts

The allowances for doubtful accounts are determined annually based on a review of individual accounts. The allowances represent management's best estimate of probable losses on receivables. Where circumstances indicate doubt as to the ultimate collectibility of an account, specific allowances are established for individual accounts. In addition to the allowances identified on an individual account basis, the Corporation establishes a further allowance representing management's best estimate of additional probable losses in the remaining accounts receivable.

i) Capital Assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost less accumulated amortization. Amortization of capital assets is recorded on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the capital assets as follows:

- Furniture and office equipment – 10 years
- Computer hardware and software – 4 years
- Leasehold improvements – over the term of the lease

Work in progress assets are not amortized until the asset is available to be put into service.

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

j) Pension Plan

Employees of the Corporation are pensionable under *The Civil Service Superannuation Act*. The Civil Service Superannuation Plan is a defined benefit pension plan. Legal Aid Manitoba is a non-matching employer. Under provisions of *The Civil Service Superannuation Act* non-matching employers defer contributing their share of employee pension benefits until they are billed for 50% of the benefit payments processed. The Corporation accrues a provision for the liability for the employer's share of employee pension benefits, including future cost of living adjustments, based on actuarial calculations. When actual experience varies from actuarial estimates, the adjustment needed is recognized immediately in net revenue (expense) in the year that the actuarial gain or loss arises.

3. Client Accounts Receivable, net

	2008	2007
Agreements to Pay	\$ 57,281	\$ 71,885
Expanded Eligibility	364,395	404,849
	421,676	476,734
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	270,720	293,653
Clients Accounts Receivable, net	150,956	183,081

4. Other Receivables, net

	2008	2007
Court Costs	\$ 233,624	\$ 239,634
Child and Family Services Agencies	11,304	7,908
Employment and Income Assistance	22,618	10,211
Employee Advances, GST Recoverable and Miscellaneous	28,883	59,401
	296,429	317,154
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	229,718	235,093
Other Receivables, net	\$ 66,711	\$ 82,061

5. Capital Assets

	2008		2007	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Furniture and Office Equipment	\$ 218,728	\$ 69,430	\$ 160,183	\$ 50,485
Computer Hardware and Software	198,589	114,732	198,590	76,052
Leasehold Improvements	274,253	168,140	258,339	139,100
Work in Progress	7,475	-	-	-
	\$ 699,045	\$ 352,302	\$ 617,112	\$ 265,637
Net Book Value		\$ 346,743		\$ 351,475

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

6. Charges on Land, net

	2008	2007
Charges on Land	\$ 1,452,475	\$ 1,514,011
Less: Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	726,237	757,006
Charges on Land, net	\$ 726,238	\$ 757,005

7. Long-term Receivable - Severance Benefits

The amount recorded as a receivable from the Province for severance pay was initially based on the estimated value of the corresponding actuarially determined liability for severance pay as at March 31, 1998. Subsequent to March 31, 1998, the Province provides annual grant funding for severance expense. As a result, the change in the severance liability each year is fully funded. The interest component related to the receivable is reflected in the funding for severance expense. The receivable for severance pay will be paid by the Province when it is determined that the cash is required to discharge the related severance pay liabilities.

8. Severance Liability

Effective April 1, 1998, Legal Aid commenced recording the estimated liability for accumulated severance pay benefits for their employees. The amount of this estimated liability is based on actuarial calculations. The periodic actuarial valuation of this liability may determine that an adjustment is needed to the actuarial calculation when actual experience is different from that expected and/or because of changes in actuarial assumptions used. The resulting actuarial gains or losses are recognized immediately in net revenue (expense) in the year that the actuarial gain or loss arises.

An actuarial report was completed for the severance pay liability as at March 31, 2007 by Ellement & Ellement Ltd., Consulting Actuaries. The report provides a formula to update liability on an annual basis.

Severance pay, at the employee's date of retirement, will be determined using the eligible employee's years of service and based on the calculation as set by the Province of Manitoba. The maximum payout is currently 23 weeks at the employee's weekly salary at the date of retirement. Eligibility will require that the employee has achieved a minimum of nine years of service and that the employee is retiring from the Corporation.

9. Revenue from the Province of Manitoba

	2008	2007
Grant	\$ 11,541,814	\$ 11,422,994
Salaries and other payments	8,322,630	8,363,627
Health and post secondary education tax levy	171,777	175,532
Employer portion of employee benefits	714,002	715,272
	\$ 20,750,223	\$ 20,677,425

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

Grant revenue from the Province of Manitoba includes the Corporation's share of provisions recorded for unfunded pension liabilities.

10. Revenue from The Manitoba Law Foundation

	2008	2007
Statutory Grant	\$ 3,021,134	\$ 1,268,901
Public Interest Law Centre	180,000	150,000
University Law Centre	89,500	75,000
	<u>\$ 3,290,634</u>	<u>\$ 1,493,901</u>

A statutory grant, pursuant to subsection 90(1) of *The Legal Profession Act*, is received annually from The Manitoba Law Foundation. The Corporation's share under the Act is 50% of the total interest on lawyers' trust accounts as received by the Foundation or a minimum of \$1,007,629, whichever is greater. In the event that interest received by the Foundation in the preceding year, after deduction of the Foundation's operational expenses, is not sufficient to pay the statutory minimum of \$1,007,629 to the Corporation, the Act provides for pro-rata sharing of the net interest.

Other grants from The Manitoba Law Foundation are received pursuant to subsection 90(4) of *The Legal Profession Act*. These grants are restricted for the Public Interest Law Centre and the University Law Centre. At March 31, 2008, there were no funds remaining from these grants.

11. Commitments

a) Lease

The Corporation rents facilities under operating leases. Unpaid remaining commitments under the leases, which expire at varying dates are:

2009	\$	671,043
2010		667,675
2011		626,125
2012		410,452
2013		59,325
Thereafter		-
	<u>\$</u>	<u>2,434,620</u>

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

b) Private Bar

Estimated total commitments for future billings on outstanding Legal Aid Certificates amount to \$1,550,000 as at March 31, 2008 (2007 - \$1,403,000).

12. Related Parties Transactions

The Corporation is related in terms of common ownership to all Province of Manitoba created departments, agencies and crown corporations. The Corporation enters into transactions with these entities in the normal course of business. These transactions are recorded at the exchange amount.

13. Private Bar Fees and Disbursements

	Fees	Disbursements	2008 Total	2007 Total
Legal Aid Certificates	\$ 7,599,556	\$ 342,008	\$ 7,941,564	\$ 7,481,994
Duty Counsel	696,933	-	696,933	295,686
Transcripts	-	77,487	77,487	81,383
Total	\$ 8,296,489	\$ 419,495	\$ 8,715,984	\$ 7,859,063

The Management Council declared a hold back holiday for all certificates processed during the fiscal year April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008. Certificates issued in this fiscal year were not subject to a hold back.

14. Provision for Employee Pension Benefits

Pension costs consist of the employer's share of pension benefits to retired employees, as well as the increase in the unfunded pension liability during the fiscal year. This liability is determined by an actuarial valuation every three years with the balances for the intervening years being estimated by a formula provided by the actuary. The most recent valuation was completed as at December 31, 2004 by Ellement & Ellement Ltd., Consulting Actuaries.

	2008	2007
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 11,051,780	\$ 10,023,029
Benefits accrued	532,517	539,168
Interest accrued on benefits	763,939	719,082
Benefits paid	(284,480)	(229,499)
Balance at end of year	\$ 12,063,756	\$ 11,051,780

The key actuarial assumptions were a rate of return of 6.50% (2001 - 6.75%), 2.50% inflation (2001 - 2.75%), salary rate increases of 4.25% (2001 - 4.5%) and post retirement indexing 2/3 of the inflation rate. The projected benefit method was used and the liability has been extrapolated to March 31, 2008 using a formula provided by the actuary.

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

Notes to Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2008

The Province has accepted responsibility for funding of the Corporation's pension liability and related expense which includes an interest component. The Corporation has therefore recorded a receivable from the Province equal to the estimated value of its actuarially determined pension liability \$12,063,756 (2007 - \$11,051,780), and has recorded revenue for 2007/08 equal to its pension expense of \$1,011,976 (2007 - \$1,028,751). The Province makes payments on the receivable when it is determined that the cash is required to discharge the related pension obligation.

15. Restricted Net Assets - Wrongful Conviction Cases

During the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006 the Province of Manitoba approved a reallocation of \$130,000 from the Corporation's unrestricted net assets. This funding was provided for section 696 applications under the Criminal Code for wrongful conviction appeals. In the current fiscal year, the Corporation incurred expenses of \$12,548 (2007 - \$204) for private bar fees and disbursements related to wrongful conviction cases. The balance remaining is \$78,559.

16. Public Sector Compensation Disclosure

For the purposes of *The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act*, all compensation for employees, Management Council members, and the private bar fees and disbursements from the Corporation is disclosed in a separate statement.

17. Legal Aid Manitoba Application System (LAMAS)

A new software application system was installed and implemented fiscal 2006/07 at a cost of \$764,850. The system was paid for by the Department of Justice and therefore, a capital asset has not been recorded in these financial statements.



OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL
MANITOBA

AUDITORS' REPORT
Supplementary Financial Information Prepared in Accordance
with The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act

To the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, and
To the Management Council of Legal Aid Manitoba

We have audited the Statement of Compensation Paid to Council Members and Employees and the Statement of Private Bar Fees and Disbursements in Excess of \$50,000 for the Legal Aid Manitoba for the year ended March 31, 2008 prepared in accordance with Sections 2 and 4 of The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act. This financial information is the responsibility of the management of the Legal Aid Manitoba. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial information based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial information is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial information. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial information.

In our opinion, these statements present fairly, in all material respects, the compensation payments to council members and employees, and payments to persons providing legal aid services for the year ended March 31, 2008 by the Legal Aid Manitoba in accordance with the provisions of The Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act.

Office of the Auditor General

Office of the Auditor General

Winnipeg, Manitoba
July 21, 2008

Legal Aid Manitoba
Statement of Private Bar Fees and Disbursements in Excess of \$50,000
For the Year Ended March 31, 2008
(Prepared in accordance with Section 4 of the Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act)

Name of Firm	Amount
Phillips, Aiello	1,365,980.00
Smith Corona VanDongen	642,703.73
Brodsky & Company	513,570.33
Saheel Zaman Law Corporation	498,249.55
Gindin, Wolson, Simmonds	391,852.96
Cassidy Ramsay	379,481.39
Campbell Gunn Inness	275,249.33
Killeen Chapman	233,324.88
Hunt, Miller & Company	219,089.84
McRoberts Law Offices	201,948.97
Dawson Law Office	188,735.51
Martin Glazer Law Office	177,259.03
Phillips Law Office	139,368.46
Skinner Law Office	136,734.04
Kucher & Nichols	132,122.41
Regan Thatcher Law Office	110,775.40
Pinx & Company	109,547.79
Chris Sigurdson Law	104,564.13
Anderson Law Office	98,977.97
Taylor Law Office	94,724.84
Poole Law Office	93,379.63
William L. Malcolm Law Corporation	88,864.73
Edmond & Associates	88,164.65
Bill Armstrong	88,023.60
Sandip Sett	87,539.64
David Matas	86,768.19
Robertson Shypit Soble	81,016.52
Gisele Champagne	76,690.35
Wendy Martin White	76,145.83
Myers Weinberg Kussin	71,817.71
Ginnell Bauman Watt Corporation	65,691.35
McDonald Thompson	64,445.79
McCoy Law Office	55,062.69
Fryatt & Purvis	50,205.50

The payments reflected in this statement are on a cash basis, net of the private bar reduction in fees.

Legal Aid Manitoba
Statement of Compensation Paid to Council Members and Employees
For the year Ended March 31, 2008

(Prepared in accordance with Section 2 of the Public Sector Compensation Disclosure Act)

Paid to Council Members:

In aggregate		\$14,415.00
Santos, Mario	Council Chair	85,154.80

Paid to employees in excess of \$50,000:

Name	Position	Amount	Name	Position	Amount
Malcolm, W.L.	Dir. Policy & Planning, Ret	147,752.58	McAmmond, J.	Staff Attorney	93,810.48
McNeilly, G.K.	Executive Director	128,679.54	Tailleur, L.J.	Staff Attorney	93,810.48
Clifford, G.	Deputy Executive Director	122,942.40	Barclay, J.A.	Staff Attorney	93,501.62
Merrett, W.	Area Director	118,917.08	Funke, J.	Staff Attorney	93,036.95
McDonald, T.	Supervising Attorney	113,049.47	Paler, S.	Staff Attorney	90,104.16
Giesbrecht, L.D.	Supervising Attorney	109,660.45	Robinson, G.B.	Staff Attorney	89,959.37
Paluk, M.D.	Supervising Attorney	109,636.48	Raposo, S.	Supervising Attorney	88,504.06
Sherman, C.D.	Deputy Area Director	109,636.48	Hwozdulych, B.A.	Staff Attorney	87,986.92
Glowacki, L.J.	Staff Attorney	109,118.80	Horst, A.	Staff Attorney	87,363.89
Williams, J.B.	Director, PILC	109,118.80	Archer, B.	Staff Attorney	85,626.57
Bates, G.D.	Staff Attorney	109,016.48	Sneesby, K.	Staff Attorney	84,048.94
Koturbash, T.M.	Supervising Attorney	108,675.88	Stewart, W.A.	Staff Attorney	83,624.05
Walker, M.	Supervising Attorney	108,136.48	Balneaves, S.	Info. Services	76,435.68
Joycey, D.	Staff Attorney	107,909.86	Kennedy, C.	Staff Attorney	74,905.95
MacAulay, G.G.	Staff Attorney	107,079.40	Laham-Szutiak, M.	Staff Attorney	71,403.22
Kingsley, P.	Staff Attorney	106,727.04	Dwarka, R.N.	Dir. Administration	70,451.83
Sansregret, A.	Staff Attorney	106,476.10	Cottam, G.	Staff Attorney	69,365.24
Cadloff, K.A.	Staff Attorney	106,289.06	Lonstrup, R.	Staff Attorney	67,581.42
Heinrichs, R.M.	Staff Attorney	105,141.42	Wiebe, C.	Info. Services	65,463.98
Brecht, R.B.	Staff Attorney	104,789.06	Perchal, J.M.	Accountant	64,093.45
Libman, A.	Staff Attorney	103,718.30	Valcourt, G.	Info. Services	63,598.43
Pauls, C.	Staff Attorney	103,010.60	Fraser, T.	Social Worker	56,284.24
Lovegrove, C.	Supervising Attorney	101,190.50	Tait, C.	Staff Attorney	56,169.10
Van Schie, S.	Staff Attorney	97,285.64	Bowman, M.	Staff Attorney	55,754.22
Strang, K.	Staff Attorney	96,455.20	Nygaard, D.	Staff Attorney	55,752.20
Birks, C.G.	Staff Attorney	95,310.48	Loreth, L.M.	Intake Officer	55,379.14
Chartrand, L.R.	Staff Attorney	95,310.48	Swait, M.	Policy Analyst	54,580.26
Cox, J.	Staff Attorney	95,310.48	Henderson, D.	Staff Attorney	54,296.89
Stewart, C.	Staff Attorney	95,310.48	Makar, L.C.	Intake Officer	53,887.08
Woodman, R.	Staff Attorney	95,310.48	Poneira, M.	Intake Officer	53,887.08
Loney, A.	Staff Attorney	95,142.43	Craft, A.	Staff Attorney	53,309.00
Grafton, R.N.	Staff Attorney	93,845.48	Simpson, P.	Info. Services	53,132.86
Hawrysh, G.B.	Staff Attorney	93,835.48	Ferens, M.	Staff Attorney	51,076.90
Dzydz, D.	Staff Attorney	93,810.48	Chastellaine, M.	Paralegal	50,818.42

DIRECTORY OF LEGAL AID OFFICES

Administrative & Winnipeg Area Office

402 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0B9
Phone: (204) 985-8500 Fax: 944-8582
TTY: 943-1131 Toll Free: 1-800-261-2960

Agassiz Law Centre

416 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0B9
Phone: 985-5230 Fax: 985-5237
Toll Free: 1-800-300-2307

Child Protection Unit

300 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0B9
Phone: 985-5211 Fax: 985-5224
Toll Free: 1-800-839-7946

Criminal Law Office

514 St. Mary Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0N6
Phone: 985-8570 Fax: 774-7504
Toll Free: 1-800-672-1043

Somerset Law Office

300 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0B9
Phone: 985-8550 Fax: 956-4146
Toll Free: 1-800-766-2148

Public Interest Law Centre

610 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0B9
Phone: 985-8540 Fax: 985-8544
Toll Free: 1-800-261-2960

University of Manitoba Law Centre

Faculty of Law - 101 Robson Hall
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg MB R3T 2N2
Phone: 985-5206 Fax: 474-7580

Winnipeg Law Office

807 - 294 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg MB R3C 0B9
Phone: 985-9732 Fax: 942-7362
Toll Free: 1-800-261-2960

Westman Community Law Centre

(BRANDON Area Office)
236 - 11th Street
Brandon MB R7A 4J6
Phone: 729-3484 Fax: 726-1732
Toll Free: 1-800-876-7326

Parklands Community Law Centre

(DAUPHIN Area Office)
31 - 3rd Avenue N.E.
Dauphin MB R7N 0Y5
Phone: 622-7000 Fax: 622-7029
Toll Free: 1-800-810-6977

Northlands Community Law Centre

236 Edwards Avenue
The Pas MB R9A 0K1
Phone: 627-4820 Fax: 627-4838
Toll Free: 1-800-268-9790

Thompson Community Law Centre

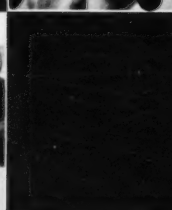
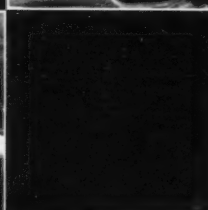
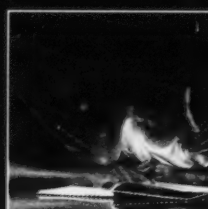
(THE PAS/THOMPSON Area Office)
3 Station Road
Thompson MB R8N 0N3
Phone: 677-1211 Fax: 677-1220
Toll Free: 1-800-665-0656

LEGAL AID MANITOBA

...SERVING MANITOBA COMMUNITIES FOR 36 YEARS



Amaranth, Ashern, Brandon, Brochet, Camperville, Churchill, Cormorant, Cranberry Portage, Cross Lake, Dauphin, Easterville, Ebb & Flow, Emerson, Fisher Branch, Flin Flon, Gillam, God's Lake Narrows, God's River, Grand Rapids, Granville Lake, Gypsumville, Ilford, Killarney, Lac Brochet, Lake Manitoba, Leaf Rapids, Lundar, Lynn Lake, Minnedosa, Moose Lake, Morden, Neepawa, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Pine Falls, Portage La Prairie, Pukatawagan, Roblin, Rosburn, Russell, Sandy Bay, Selkirk, Shamattawa, Sherridon, Sioux Valley, South Indian Lake, Snow Lake, Split Lake, St. Pierre, Steinbach, Swan River, The Pas, Thompson, Virden, Wabowden, Wanless, Waywayseecappo, Winnipeg



Legal Aid Manitoba

L'Aide Juridique du Manitoba

294 Portage Avenue | Room 402 | Winnipeg | Manitoba | R3C 0B9 | www.legalaid.mb.ca